

## Staff Response to Comments submitted by Dave Fadness

The following comments were provided by Task Force member Dave Fadness. Following each comment is a note indicating staff's response. Staff has revised the proposed Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions to include most of the proposed changes.

Suggestions for modification of  
Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions  
**Water Supply, Water Conservation, Water Recycling, and Water Quality**  
(as revised by staff for 10-19-09 Task Force meeting)

**Goal WS-1** San Jose will demonstrate environmental leadership through responsible, **fiscally sustainable** management of water to restore our environment, enhance our quality of life and provide an adequate water supply for the needs of our community now and in the future.

(Staff: *Economic sustainability is addressed in Policy WS1-1 and sustainability has been added to WS-1. Specifically adding 'fiscal sustainability' to the Goal gives too much preference to fiscal considerations which may be counter to the best management practices for water resources over the long-term).*

A. Adopt city codes and standards and work with local, regional, state, and other public and private agencies to **dramatically** increase water use efficiency and the use of recycled water within San Jose and neighboring jurisdictions.

(Staff: *Added as Action WS-2.14 and Action WS-3.12*)

B. Implement aggressive efficiency and recycling goals and publicly review performance on a regular basis to monitor and achieve success.

(Staff: *Added as Action WS-2.15 and Action WS-3.13*)

**Policy WS-1.4** Create partnerships and governance structures that allow for a comprehensive approach to water supply management that improves the reliability of local and imported water supplies, explores new sources of water, and ~~enhances~~ **protects** the Delta ecosystem.

(Staff: *WS-1.4 was edited to include the terms 'protect and enhance'. Enhance implies improvement above current conditions, thereby being more ambitious than 'protect'. A more ambitious goal is appropriate in this instance.*)

**Action WS-1.6** Engage the public in an education program about the importance of adequate water supplies to San Jose's quality of life and how they can help meet future water supply challenges and minimize the need for imported water by using water efficiently, including conserving water and using recycled water where appropriate. **Quantitatively track public acceptance and adoption of these approaches to achieve specified targets.**

(Staff: *Added suggested text as new action WS-1.6. Note that the numbering has been changed, so that the previous WS-1.6 is now WS-1.5*)

**Action WS-1.7** Partner with other Bay Area cities to ensure that local, regional and statewide plans provide adequate water supplies to serve our community and protect the environment. **Establish current and projected future needs then develop and implement plans to achieve them.**

(Staff: *Action WS-1.8 is added to address this concern. The added text is modified from the proposal to reflect that the primary responsibility for the preparation of these plans is assigned to water retailers under State law.*)

**Goal WS-2** Continuously improve water conservation efforts in order to achieve ~~half of the Countywide Water Savings Goal~~ **best in class performance**. Increase water conservation within San Jose by 250% by 2040.

(Staff: *The suggested text was added to WS-2. WS-2 was also reworded to maintain the proposed goal related to the Countywide target. Keeping this goal is useful in that it is both ambitious and quantitative.*)

**Policy WS-2.1** Demonstrate environmental leadership by adopting citywide policies that encourage or require new development to incorporate measures to reduce potable water demand and/or increase water efficiency in order to reduce the City's need for imported water. **Track and regularly report on performance relative to specified goals.**

*(Staff: This has been added as Action 2.15)*

**Policy WS-2.2** Demonstrate environmental leadership by encouraging the creation and use of new technologies that reduce potable water demand and/or increase the efficiency of water use. **Provide "early-adopter" opportunities to serve as a test bed for new technologies in order to accelerate their adoption and achieve our goals.**

*(Staff: This has been added as Action 2.16)*

**Action WS-2.10** ~~Encourage~~ **Enact codes and standards that require** storm water capture and, when feasible and cost-effective, on-site rainwater catchment for new and existing development.

*(Staff: The proposed change is considered to be too ambitious for incorporation into the General Plan at this time. Until the possible issues associated with storm water capture and reuse are better understood, there is sufficient concern that this policy could have unintended consequences, and/or legal and implementation issues that require further exploration beyond the scope of the General Plan Update.)*

**Action WS-2.11** ~~Encourage~~ **Enact codes and standards that require** gray water use when appropriate and in areas that do not impact groundwater quality.

*(Staff: The proposed change is considered to be too ambitious for incorporation into the General Plan at this time. Until the possible issues associated with gray water use are better understood, there is sufficient concern that this policy could have unintended consequences, and/or legal and implementation issues that require further exploration beyond the scope of the General Plan Update.)*

**Action WS-3.6** Develop **and enact** ordinance(s) to require new development to contribute to the improvement and expansion of the non-potable water system.

*(Staff: The requested addition was made to WS-3.6)*

**Action WS-3.7** Promote increased acceptance and use of recycled water by establishing an adaptive outreach program to educate the community about the value of recycled water as an important part of a sustainable urban water use portfolio. **Quantitatively track public acceptance and adoption of these approaches to achieve specified targets.**

*(Staff: Action WS-1.6 was added to incorporate the suggested text.)*